

Minutes of March 19, 2012

The Meeting was opened at 5:30 PM. All members were present to discuss and do a final review of Police Department Salaries.

Scott Farrell, Police Chief, appeared before the Board to review and discuss FY13 salaries for the Police Department. Chief Farrell is recommending an hourly rate increase for the Full Time Officer from \$19.50 to \$20.75 an hour for a 40 hour rather than the current 32 hour work week. This would be competitive with other area Police Departments. He also recommends that the Part Time Officer's salary would be from \$16.50 to \$16.75 per hour but believes he would not have to go to the full \$16.75 rate.

The meeting minutes of March 5th were accepted as amended.

The meeting minutes of March 12th were accepted as amended.

The Chair updated the public about the School Committee meeting that was held on Thursday, March 15th. She advised that the School Committee discussed setting up a sub-committee to deal with the issues/points that have come up recently regarding Community Schools. It was decided to hold a separate School Committee meeting to discuss the matter on March 29th at 6:00 p.m.

Owen Hoberman of the Ladder Sign Committee appeared before the Board to request the Board's permission to put a new sign at the intersection of Route 57 and New Marlborough Southfield Road. The Board advised that it had no problem with the request as long as the committee receives a favorable review by the Highway Superintendent and the Police Chief.

At 6:45 p.m. a Special Permit Hearing was opened for Buggy Whip Factory LLC. Mr. J. Edward Odegaard owner was present. Applicant has applied for a Special Permit under the Protective By-Laws section 3.5.3 for a change of use for the purpose of operating a custom woodworking and furniture shop. The Chair advised that the hearing was advertised, abutters were notified by certified mail and that no written comments had been received. Mr. Odegaard stated that he purchased the property last year, and now currently the building hosts a few businesses in the large open space. The Chair inquired if anyone present had any objections. Hearing none a motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Special Permit. A roll count vote was called: Tara B. White - Yes; Lawrence H. Davis, III - Yes; Nathaniel H. Yohalem - Yes. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to close the hearing.

At 7:00 p.m. a Special Permit Hearing was opened for Buggy Whip Factory LLC. Mr. J. Edward Odegaard owner was present. Applicant has filed for the Special Permit under the Protective By-Laws, Section 6.1.3 for the purpose of changing exterior signage for the property located at 208/214 Norfolk Road. The Chair advised that the hearing was advertised, abutters were notified by certified mail and no written comments had been received. Mr. Odegaard advised that he would like to consolidate some of the signs and have a bigger free standing sign in front of the building. The Chair inquired if anyone present had any objections. Hearing none a motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the Special Permit. A roll count vote was called: Tara B. White - Yes; Lawrence H. Davis, III - Yes; Nathaniel H. Yohalem - Yes. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to close the hearing.

Selectman Yohalem updated the Board and public about the department heads meeting. He advised that discussions were held regarding the cost of doing quarterly billing with the Tax Collector, problems with the Annual Street Listing (residents not returning about 100 census forms) with the Town Clerk and a proposed new fee schedule for building permits with the Building Inspector. He had shown that New Marlborough fees are on the low end as compared with surrounding towns.

Members of the Finance Committee, David Herrick, Ira Yohalem, William Hattendorf, Prudence Spaulding, and Burton Imberman appeared before the Board to review and discuss FY 13 budgets. The Selectmen advised that they have declined the request from Berkshire South for \$1,000.00, even though the Finance Committee recommended the request on February 16th. The Finance Committee has the option of taking another vote to pass or decline the request.

The Board mentioned to the Finance Committee that it is recommending a 2.5% increase for Town Employees with a few exceptions. Those exceptions are Police Officer full time – increase from \$19.50 to \$20.75 an hour, Highway Superintendent increase of 3.16%, Librarian – increase to \$39,000.00 would include library maintenance, Highway Foreman (new classification) from \$17.84 to \$18.56, and Administrative Assistant – increase of 4.62% total yearly salary of \$36,000.00.

The Board and Finance Committee also discussed establishing a Veterans Benefits account which the State would reimburse the Town up to 75% and it will take three years to build the fund. Also discussed the Emergency Management Director Salary increase from \$1,000.00 to \$3,000.00 with the pay being paid monthly. The Board mentioned that it would like to hire a new Administrative Assistant Secretary to work 19 hours a week with the pay of \$15,000.00.

The Board and Finance Committee discussed having a public meeting for voters to discuss and review the warrant article budgets on April 23.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board a motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Skorput
Administrative Assistant